4: Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1980
AW50 Badaga AW50

1821: lxxii; Shortt 1868: 60; Rhiem 1900: 508-09; Francis 1908: 130; Thurston 1909: 81; Tignous 1911: 116; Benbow 1930: 13-15; Verghese 1963: 419).

In the nineteen-thirties a small number, who had been to high school or who had cultural contacts with Tamilian women from the plains of Madras, started giving up this traditional white dress for multi-coloured *sa:ris*. Today only the older Badaga women can be seen in traditional dress. In the nineteen-forties high school girls began wearing jackets. Today at the English-language private schools in the Nilgiris one occasionally meets Badaga girls in full English school uniform, including a short skirt; and the word "miniskirt" has actually passed into the Badaga language, even though the article has never been seen in their villages. Since 1950 blouses covering the upper arms and shoulders have become popular. Another innovation is underwear: since the nineteen-fifties all young women have worn brassieres, and underpants are worn by all schoolgirls.

2.16. The basic dress of the men is a loincloth (*muṇḍu*) worn over a breechclout that is kept in place by a string around the waist; the doubled-over loincloth reaches to the ankle, but is commonly pulled up to the knees. A cloak or blanket is wrapped around the upper part of the body, and a turban of cotton or silk sits loosely around the head. Traditionally no footwear was worn, for fear of offending the diety they walked upon; but in the nineteenth century men began wearing leather boots and sandals which had been purchased locally. Men's shoes came into use early in the present century. A distinctive pair of gold earrings, perhaps a silver finger-ring, and an umbrella or walking-stick complete the men's apparel. The elaborately embroidered cloak (*pugaru si:le* in Badagu) of the Todas is also favoured by older men, and is virtually a mark of office for village headmen. At the turn of this century men started wearing European-style jackets and trousers; but before that they had adopted shirts, which hang outside the loincloth; Kashmir shawls in red, orange, green or blue wool have also been popular with the men since the 1920s. "Pork-pie" caps, coloured nightcaps, and "Gandhi" caps have likewise been fashionable alternatives to the turban for some time. By mid-century the pubic cloth was giving way to cotton shorts or Western-style underpants, except among older men. (Ward 1821: lxxii; Shortt 1868: 60; Grigg 1880: 220: Francis 1908; 130; Thurston 1909: 81; Tignous 1911: 116; Vivekanandam Pillai 1937: 247.)

2.17. This account of Badaga appearance will not be complete

4: Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1980
AW50 Badaga AW50

without some further notes on body ornaments. Men as well as women usually wear gold earrings, which are still made from melted gold sovereigns. Women also have gold nose-rings, always worn in the left nostril. Gold, silver or brass armlets may be worn by women just above the right elbow. Numerous silver, gold or glass bangles will be on the wrists; men too wore a silver bangle and silver or copper toe-rings until 50 years ago. Silver or steel rings are worn on the fingers of both sexes (Thurston 1909: 81-82). Necklaces of great variety are also favoured by girls. In general, where gold ornaments are too costly women wear them in filagree silver, brass, copper, iron or steel instead (Grigg 1880: 220). Badagas believe that if a person wears gold, the length of his lifetime will be greater. One might think that wearing gold invited theft; but in fact it seems that this did not often occur amongst the Badagas. Throughout the nineteenth century men, when travelling from village to village, carried a walking-staff with a small axe-head in lieu of the handle, for protection. When however they were to walk to the plains on a trading expedition (prior to 1825) they would first divest themselves of all ornaments, including even their silver waist-bands and any richly made cloak. They were clearly very afraid of brigands, even though they travelled in a group of up to 100 men.

This still does not complete the list of ornaments, however. Priests wear a silver ring during each festival. Some of the headmen wear gold or silver "rings of office" on their fingers, given to their ancestors by East India Company officials or even earlier chieftains of Mysore. The headman of Ke:ti wears one called *sinaganige*, which his ancestor seems to have taken from another Badaga headman after a hand-to-hand fight. It is now worshipped in his home every Monday. Such rings can always be given as security against a fine, and are conventionally worth 1,000 rupees in gold coins. Women who go barefoot — still the great majority today — wear silver rings on three or four toes of each foot. (In Southern India slippers are associated mainly with Muslim women and Hindu dancing girls.)

Until about 1930, it was the custom for men to carry non-collapsible umbrellas made of palm leaves on a cane frame. (Such umbrellas can still be seen in Kerala occasionally.) Since the Nilgiri Plateau is very wet for a part of the year (roughly 20 ins. in May-July, and another 30 ins. the rest of the year), these or their more recent Western equivalents often substitute for a walking stick. Until very recently it was thought disrespectful to the men for women to carry